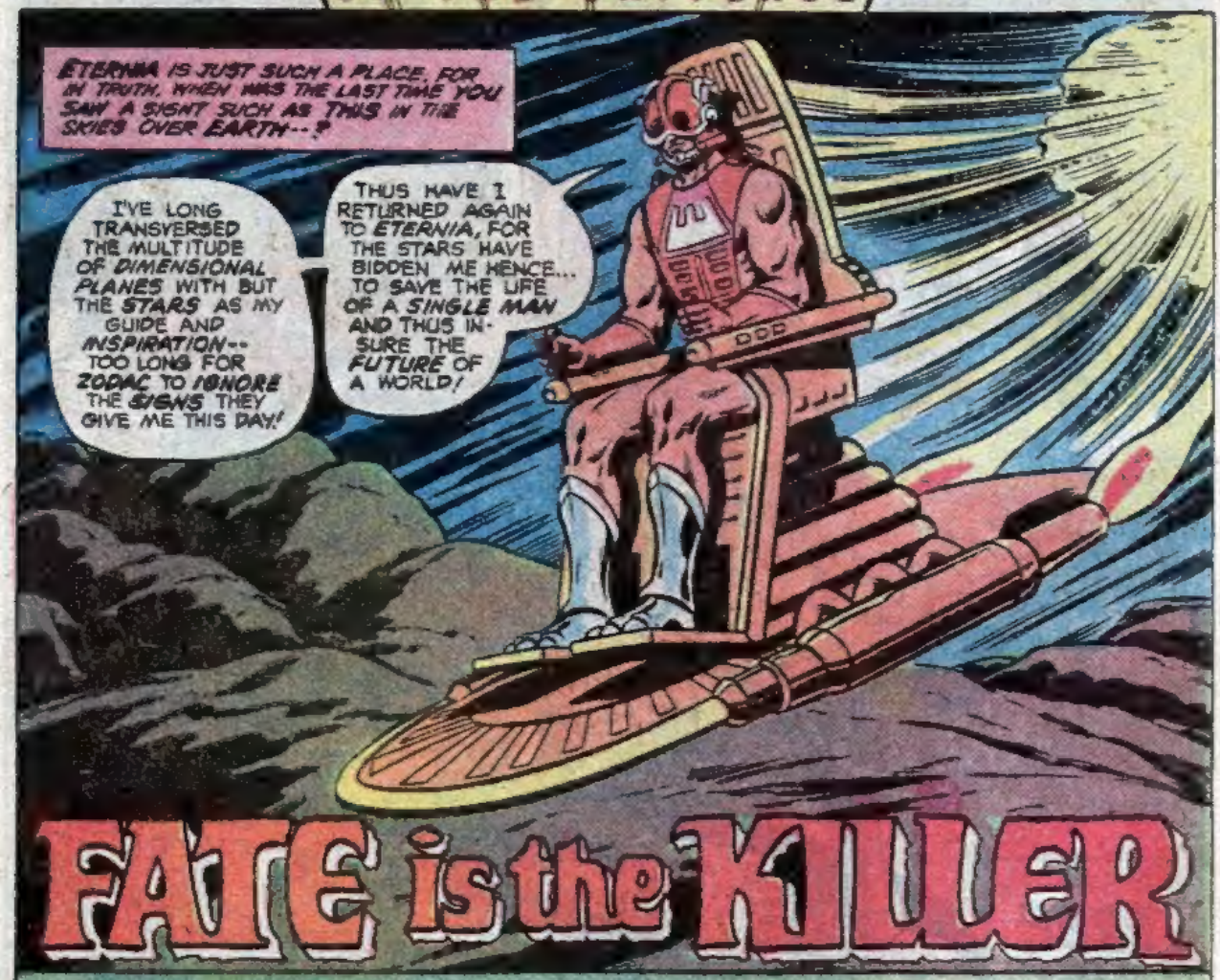
★★★SPECIAL MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE PREVIEW★★★

WHERE SCIENCE ENDS--MAGIC BEGINS...
MASTERS
OF THE UNIVERSE
A SPECIAL FREE GIFT TO YOU FROM THE NEW DC!
HE-MAN FIGHTS THE MYSTIC FORCES OF THE EVIL SKELETOR--WITH THE TIMELESS KINGDOM OF ETERNIA ITSELF AT STAKE!

★★★SPECIAL MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE PREVIEW★★★

THE UNIVERSE IS A BIG PLACE.
THE MULTIVERSE IS EVEN BIGGER! FOR EVERY DECISION A MAN CAN MAKE, THERE ARE A MILLION DIMENSIONS WHERE EACH AND EVERY ALTERNATIVE TAKES PLACE AS WELL.
FOR EVERY POSSIBILITY OF EVOLUTION THERE LIKEWISE EXISTS A PLACE. MANY ARE SO ALIKE THAT AS SMALL A THING AS ONE PERSON MAY BE ALL THAT DIFFERENTIATES IT FROM THE UNIVERSE NEXT DOOR.
OTHERS ARE FAR FROM THE WORLD WE KNOW -- WORLDS WHERE THE PREDOMINANT LIFE FORMS ARE EXACTLY LIKE US... BUT CIVILIZATION HAS TAKEN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT TURN!
MASTERS
OF THE UNIVERSE


ETERNIA IS JUST SUCH A PLACE, FOR IN TRUTH, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW A SIGHT SUCH AS THIS IN THE SKIES OVER EARTH--?
I'VE LONG TRANSVERSED THE MULTITUDE OF DIMENSIONAL PLANES WITH BUT THE STARS AS MY GUIDE AND INSPIRATION-- TOO LONG FOR ZODAC TO IGNORE THE SIGNS THEY GIVE ME THIS DAY!
THUS HAVE I RETURNED AGAIN TO ETERNIA, FOR THE STARS HAVE BIDDEN ME HENCE... TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A SINGLE MAN AND THUS INSURE THE FUTURE OF A WORLD!

# FATE is the KILLER

PAUL KUPPERBERG — WRITER / CURT SWAN & DAVE HUNT — ARTISTS / BEN ODA — LETTERER / ANTHONY TOLLIN — COLORIST / PAUL CLEVELAND — TALLEST / DAVE MANAK — EDITOR

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# ★★★SPECIAL MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE PREVIEW★★★

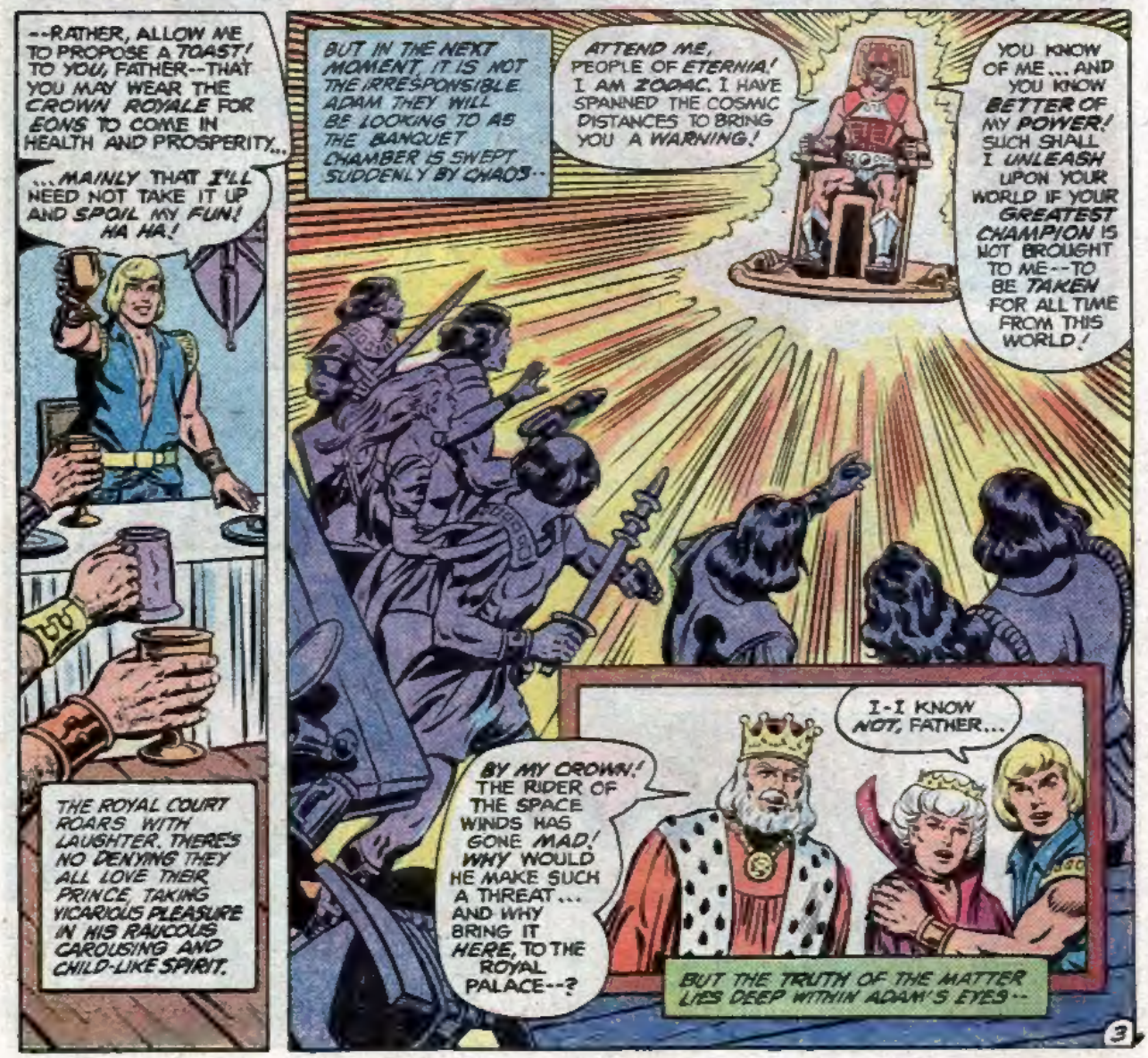
HOW VERY ODD THE QUIRKS OF FATE! MY MISSION IS TO SAVE ETERNIA... YET IN DOING SO, MY ACTIONS MAY WELL LEAD IT TO THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!
YET ONLY IN THIS WAY MAY THIS WORLD SURVIVE!
ZODAC FALLS SILENT THEN, FOR IT IS NOT EVEN TO THIS BEING FROM THE STARS TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE WORKINGS OF FATE--

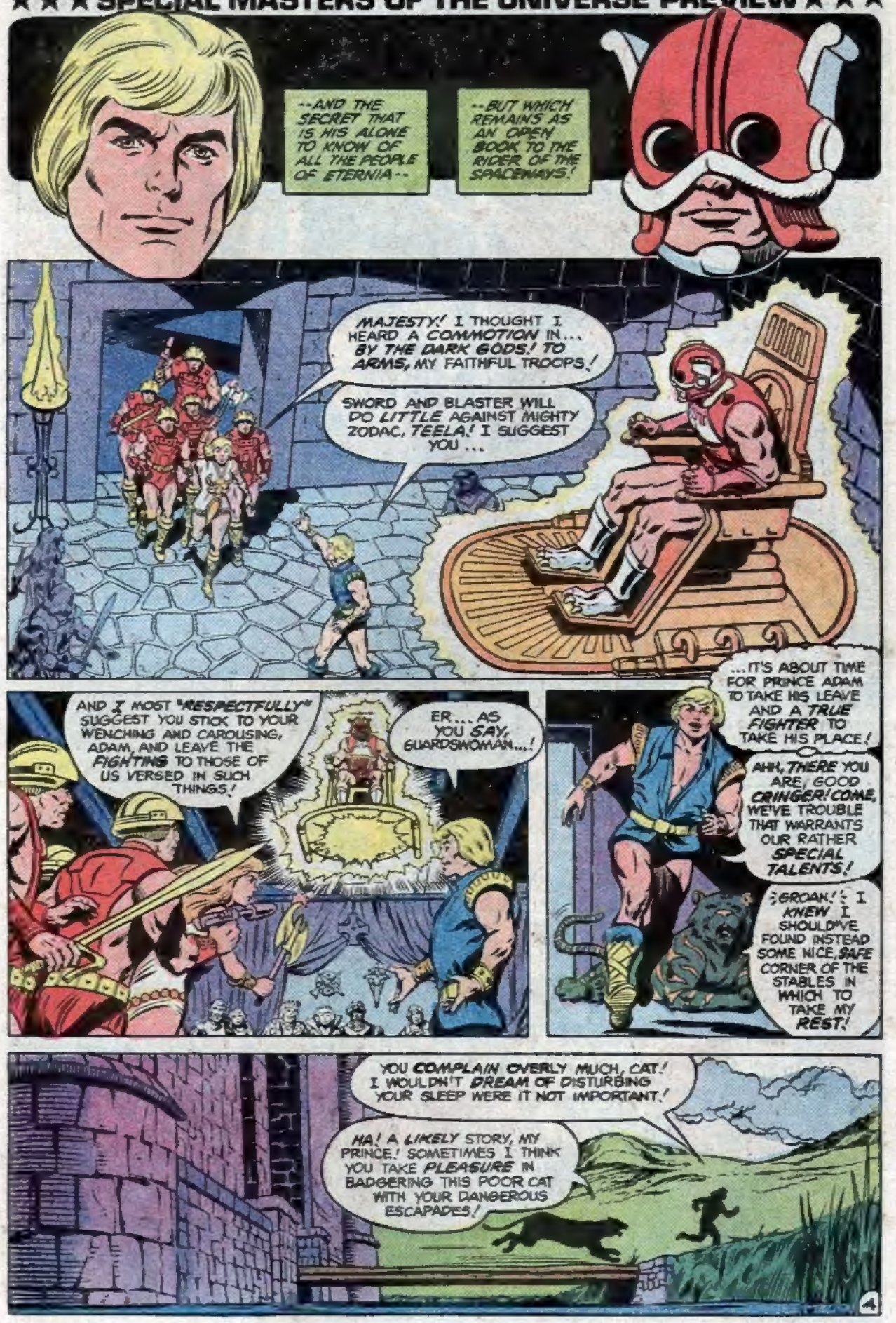
--AND IT FALLS EVEN LESS TO THE PEOPLE OF ETERNIA FOR SUCH COSMIC AWARENESS! INSTEAD, THEY ARE LEFT TO REVEL IN THE SECURE WARMTH OF IGNORANCE.
WELCOME TO THE ROYAL COURT OF ETERNIA! DESPITE APPEARANCES TO THE CONTRARY, THESE ARE NOT A SIMPLE PEOPLE--FOR THOUGH THEIR CIVILIZATION IS BASED ON A MONARCHY UNLIKE ANY SEEN ON OUR WORLD OF CENTURIES--
--ETERNIA POSSESSES A STRANGE MIX OF FEUDALISM AND TECHNOLOGY. IT'S JUST THAT, EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, THE MORE PRIMITIVE SIDE OF ITS DUAL PERSONALITY TAKES HOLD--
--AND, AS IN ETERNIA'S ROYAL COURT, THEY WILL LET LOOSE FOR QUITE THE GOOD TIME!

BY THE PROPHETS-- WHERE CAN THAT SON OF OURS BE, WOMAN! DOESN'T HE YET REALIZE THE HEIR TO THE THRONE MUST ATTEND THESE FEASTS?
CALM YOURSELF, MY HUSBAND! DIDN'T ADAM PROMISE HE WOULD BE HERE?
AYE! THAT HE DID, GOOD QUEEN--
--BUT YOU CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO SHOW UP WITHOUT SUITABLE COMPANIONSHIP, DID YOU?
HAIL, PRINCE ADAM?
AHHH... NOW THE REVELRY CAN BEGIN IN EARNEST!
WHAT MUST THE MEMBERS OF THE COURT BE THINKING?
ONLY TWO WENCHES, LAD--? YOU'RE LOSING YOUR CHARM!

FORGIVE MY TARDINESS, MOTHER AND FATHER. AS YOU CAN SEE, I WAS, ER... UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED.
OUT WENCHING AGAIN, YOU MEAN, BOY!
I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS TRAINING IN THE DELICATE ART OF NEGOTIATION, GOOD MAN-AT-ARMS!

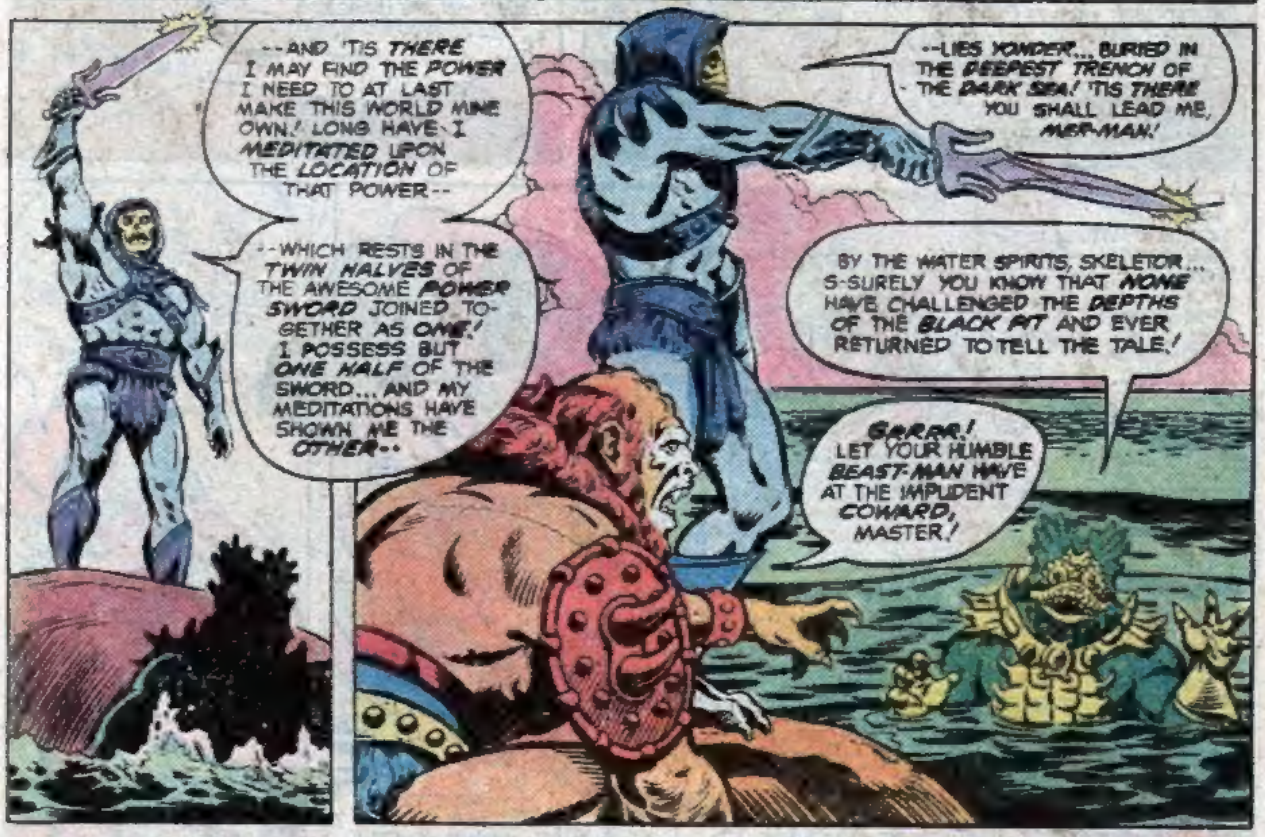
REALLY-- YOU TREAT ADAM AS IF HE WERE ALREADY KING... NOT JUST PRINCE OF THE REALM!
IF YOU PLEASE, MAJESTY--YOU INDULGE HIS TOMFOOLERY ENOUGH AS IS, I THINK THE LEAST HE COULD DO IS TO SOMETIMES FULFILL HIS PRINCELY DUTIES!
MAN-AT-ARMS-- MOTHER! LET US NOT BICKER ON SUCH A MOMENTOUS OCCASION AS THIS--

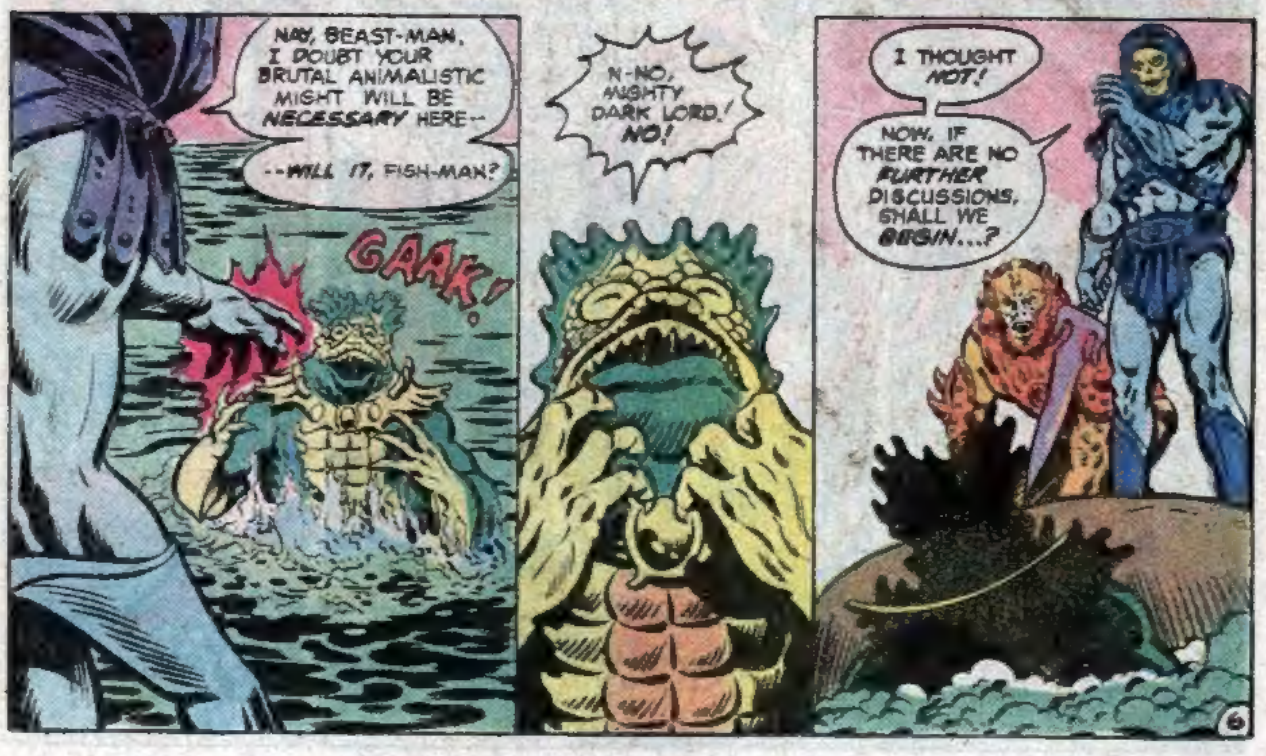

--RATHER, ALLOW ME TO PROPOSE A TOAST! TO YOU, FATHER--THAT YOU MAY WEAR THE CROWN ROYALE FOR EONS TO COME IN HEALTH AND PROSPERITY...
...MAINLY THAT I'LL NEED NOT TAKE IT UP AND SPOIL MY FUN! HA HA!
THE ROYAL COURT ROARS WITH LAUGHTER. THERE'S NO DENYING THEY ALL LOVE THEIR PRINCE, TAKING VICARIOUS PLEASURE IN HIS RAUCOUS CAROUSING AND CHILD-LIKE SPIRIT.
BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT, IT IS NOT THE IRRESPONSIBLE ADAM THEY WILL BE LOOKING TO AS THE BANQUET CHAMBER IS SWEPT SUDDENLY BY CHAOS--
ATTEND ME, PEOPLE OF ETERNIA! I AM ZODAC. I HAVE SPANNED THE COSMIC DISTANCES TO BRING YOU A WARNING!
YOU KNOW OF ME... AND YOU KNOW BETTER OF MY POWER! SUCH SHALL I UNLEASH UPON YOUR WORLD IF YOUR GREATEST CHAMPION IS NOT BROUGHT TO ME--TO BE TAKEN FOR ALL TIME FROM THIS WORLD!
BY MY CROWN! THE RIDER OF THE SPACE WINDS HAS GONE MAD! WHY WOULD HE MAKE SUCH A THREAT... AND WHY BRING IT HERE, TO THE ROYAL PALACE--?
I-I KNOW NOT, FATHER...
BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER LIES DEEP WITHIN ADAM'S EYES--

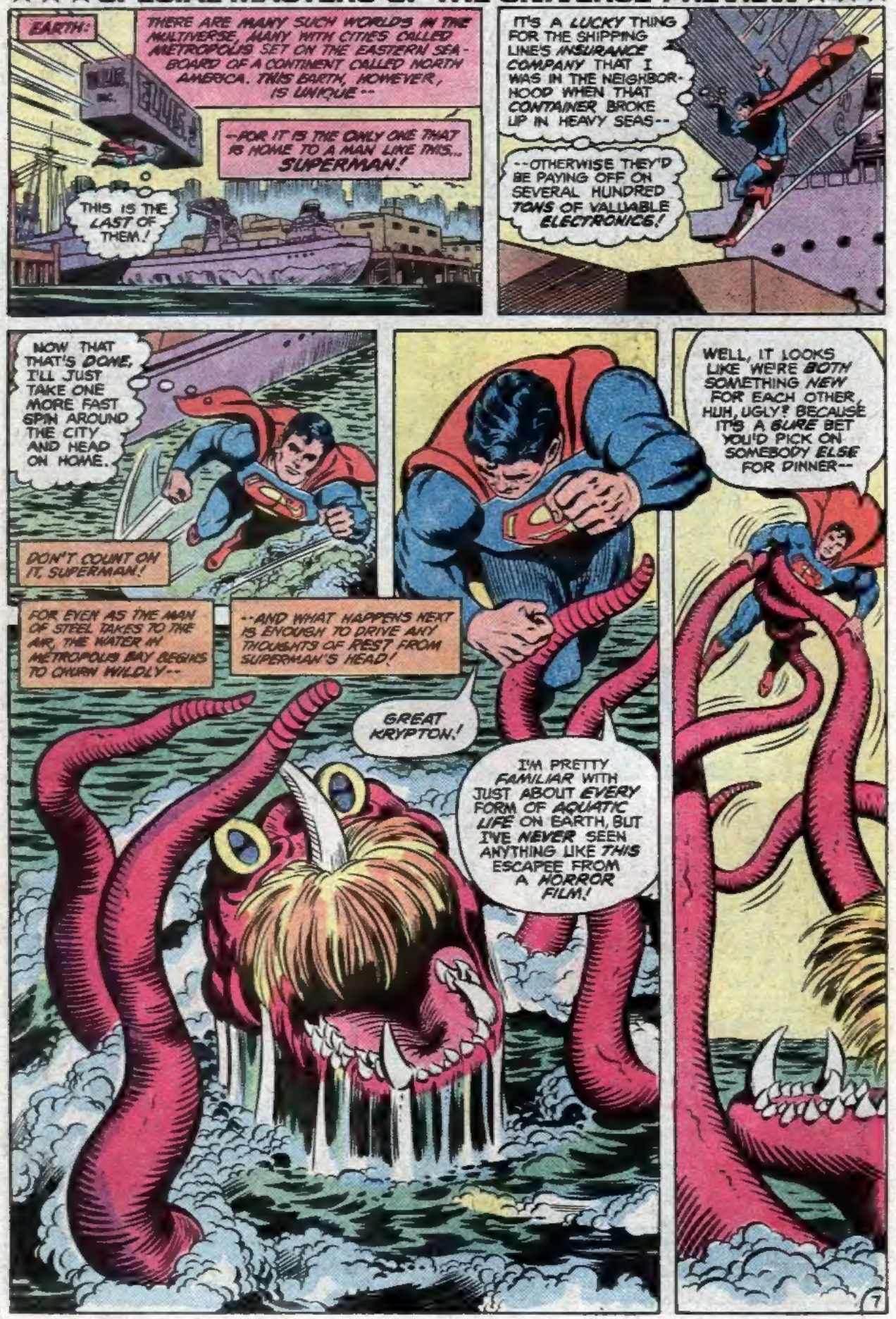

--AND THE SECRET THAT IS HIS ALONE TO KNOW OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ETERNIA--
--BUT WHICH REMAINS AS AN OPEN BOOK TO THE RIDER OF THE SPACEWAYS!
MAJESTY! I THOUGHT I HEARD A COMMOTION IN... BY THE DARK GODS! TO ARMS, MY FAITHFUL TROOPS!
SWORD AND BLASTER WILL DO LITTLE AGAINST MIGHTY ZODAC, TEELA! I SUGGEST YOU ...
AND I MOST "RESPECTFULLY" SUGGEST YOU STICK TO YOUR WENCHING AND CAROUSING, ADAM, AND LEAVE THE FIGHTING TO THOSE OF US VERSED IN SUCH THINGS!
ER... AS YOU SAY, GUARDSWOMAN...!
...IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR PRINCE ADAM TO TAKE HIS LEAVE AND A TRUE FIGHTER TO TAKE HIS PLACE!
AHH, THERE YOU ARE, GOOD CRINGER! COME, WE'VE TROUBLE THAT WARRANTS OUR RATHER SPECIAL TALENTS!
GROAN! I KNEW I SHOULD'VE FOUND INSTEAD SOME NICE, SAFE CORNER OF THE STABLES IN WHICH TO TAKE MY REST!
YOU COMPLAIN OVERLY MUCH, CAT! I WOULDN'T DREAM OF DISTURBING YOUR SLEEP WERE IT NOT IMPORTANT!
HA! A LIKELY STORY, MY PRINCE! SOMETIMES I THINK YOU TAKE PLEASURE IN BADGERING THIS POOR CAT WITH YOUR DANGEROUS ESCAPADES!

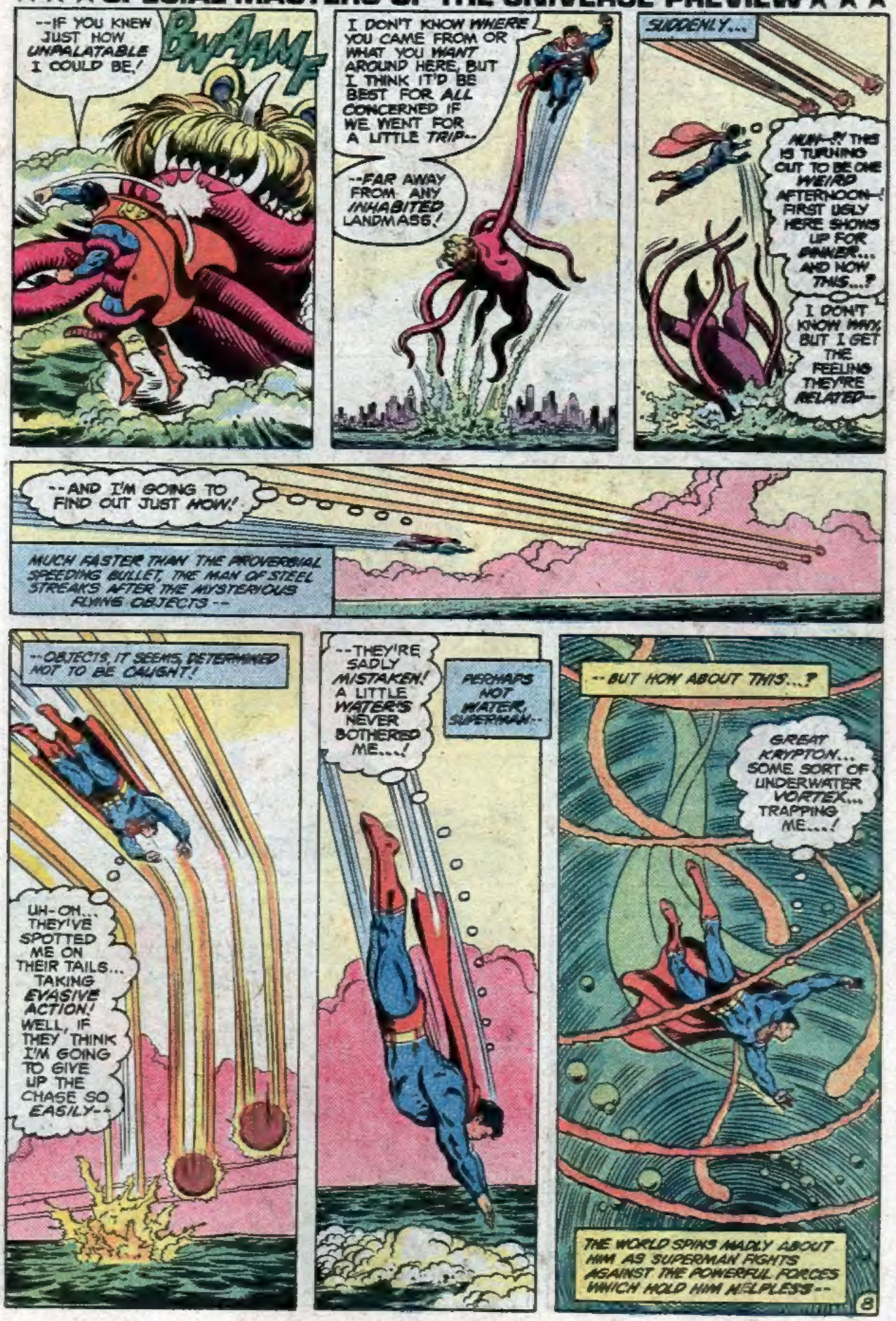
SKREEEEEE!
SKREEECHH!
AYE? THEN WHAT SAY YOU TO THAT, CRINGER... THE CALL TO ARMS OF THE FALCON?
SIGH! AS YOU SAY, ADAM... WE'RE NEEDED! THOUGH THE GODS KNOW WHY I WAS SO HONORED TO BE CHOSEN FOR SUCH HAZARDOUS DUTY!
THE AIR IS STILL IN THE COUNTRYSIDE BEYOND THE ROYAL CASTLE, SAVE FOR THE PLAINTIVE CRY OF A DARK BIRD OF PREY -- AND THE POUNDING FOOT-FALL OF THE PRINCE AND HIS CAT--
--AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT...
YE HAVE ANSWERED MY SUMMONS WITH HASTE, SWEET PRINCE--
--AS IT SHOULD BE, FOR THOU WOULD NOT BE SO CALLED DID NOT THE SORCERESS HAVE NEED OF THY POWERS!
I AM EVER AT YOUR COMMAND, GODDESS! SPEAK THEN AND SAY HOW MIGHTY HE-MAN AND FAITHFUL BATTLE CAT MAY BE OF SERVICE--
--THOUGH THIS ONCE I DO THINK I KNOW ALREADY OF THE MENACE THAT FACES ETERNIA!
YE SPEAK OF ZODAC, DO YE NOT, MY CHAMPION?
'TIS NOT HE OF WHICH I SPEAK! NAY, THE SAILOR OF THE SOLAR WINDS IS NO THREAT TO THIS WORLD'S WELL-BEING--
--NOT WHILST THE BEING OF EVIL INCARNATE IS YET LOOSE ON ETERNIA... NOT WHILST HE CALLED SKELETOR CONTINUES HIS SEARCH FOR THE POWER SWORD HE HOPES WILL MAKE HIM RULER SUPREME O'ER THY PEOPLE!
SKELETOR! MAY THE DARK GODS BURN HIS EVIL SOUL!
YE MAY RELY NOT UPON AID FROM BEYOND IN THY MISSION, HE-MAN... NOR MUST YE LET ANY STAND IN THE WAY OF COMPLETING THE TASK I HAVE SET TO THEE!
GO NOW, MY WARRIOR... AND MAY THE GODS BE WITH THEE!
MY THANKS, GODDESS! HE-MAN WILL NOT FAIL YOU... SKELETOR SHALL BE STOPPED!

AND SPEAKING OF THE DEVIL...
AS YOU COMMAND, SO HAS MER-MAN COME, MIGHTY SKELETOR! WHAT IS IT YOU WISH OF ME?
BESIDES YOUR UNDYING OBEDIENCE, FISH MAN?
SELDOM DOES THE DARK LORD HAVE NEED OF AID FROM SUCH AS YOU, BUT ON THIS DAY I FIND I MUST, FOR YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE UNPARALLELED OF THE ETERNIAN SEAS, MER-MAN.


--AND 'TIS THERE I MAY FIND THE POWER I NEED TO AT LAST MAKE THIS WORLD MINE OWN! LONG HAVE I MEDITATED UPON THE LOCATION OF THAT POWER--
--WHICH RESTS IN THE TWIN HALVES OF THE AWESOME POWER SWORD JOINED TOGETHER AS ONE! I POSSESS BUT ONE HALF OF THE SWORD... AND MY MEDITATIONS HAVE SHOWN ME THE OTHER--
--LIES YONDER... BURIED IN THE DEEPEST TRENCH OF THE DARK SEA! 'TIS THERE YOU SHALL LEAD ME, MER-MAN!
BY THE WATER SPIRITS, SKELETOR... S-SURELY YOU KNOW THAT NONE HAVE CHALLENGED THE DEPTHS OF THE BLACK PIT AND EVER RETURNED TO TELL THE TALE!
GRRR! LET YOUR HUMBLE BEAST-MAN HAVE AT THE IMPUDENT COWARD, MASTER!


NAY, BEAST-MAN, I DOUBT YOUR BRUTAL ANIMALISTIC MIGHT WILL BE NECESSARY HERE--
--WILL IT, FISH-MAN?
GAAK!
N-NO, MIGHTY DARK LORD! NO!
I THOUGHT NOT!
NOW, IF THERE ARE NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, SHALL WE BEGIN...?


EARTH:
THERE ARE MANY SUCH WORLDS IN THE MULTIVERSE, MANY WITH CITIES CALLED METROPOLIS SET ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD OF A CONTINENT CALLED NORTH AMERICA. THIS EARTH, HOWEVER, IS UNIQUE--
--FOR IT IS THE ONLY ONE THAT IS HOME TO A MAN LIKE THIS... SUPERMAN!
THIS IS THE LAST OF THEM!
IT'S A LUCKY THING FOR THE SHIPPING LINE'S INSURANCE COMPANY THAT I WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHEN THAT CONTAINER BROKE UP IN HEAVY SEAS--
--OTHERWISE THEY'D BE PAYING OFF ON SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS OF VALUABLE ELECTRONICS!
NOW THAT THAT'S DONE, I'LL JUST TAKE ONE MORE FAST SPIN AROUND THE CITY AND HEAD ON HOME.
DON'T COUNT ON IT, SUPERMAN!
FOR EVEN AS THE MAN OF STEEL TAKES TO THE AIR, THE WATER IN METROPOLIS BAY BEGINS TO CHURN WILDLY--
--AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS ENOUGH TO DRIVE ANY THOUGHTS OF REST FROM SUPERMAN'S HEAD!
GREAT KRYPTON!
I'M PRETTY FAMILIAR WITH JUST ABOUT EVERY FORM OF AQUATIC LIFE ON EARTH, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS ESCAPEE FROM A HORROR FILM!
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BOTH SOMETHING NEW FOR EACH OTHER, HUH, UGLY? BECAUSE IT'S A SURE BET YOU'D PICK ON SOMEBODY ELSE FOR DINNER--


--IF YOU KNEW JUST HOW UNPALATABLE I COULD BE!
BWAAMF
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM OR WHAT YOU WANT AROUND HERE, BUT I THINK IT'D BE BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED IF WE WENT FOR A LITTLE TRIP--
--FAR AWAY FROM ANY INHABITED LANDMASS!
SUDDENLY...
HUH--?! THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE ONE WEIRD AFTERNOON--! FIRST USLY HERE SHOWS UP FOR PINKER... AND NOW THIS...?
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I GET THE FEELING THEY'RE RELATED--
--AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT JUST HOW!
MUCH FASTER THAN THE PROVERBIAL SPEEDING BULLET, THE MAN OF STEEL STREAKS AFTER THE MYSTERIOUS FLYING OBJECTS --
--OBJECTS, IT SEEMS, DETERMINED NOT TO BE CAUGHT!
UH-OH... THEY'VE SPOTTED ME ON THEIR TAILS... TAKING EVASIVE ACTION! WELL, IF THEY THINK I'M GOING TO GIVE UP THE CHASE SO EASILY--
--THEY'RE SADLY MISTAKEN! A LITTLE WATER'S NEVER BOTHERED ME...!
PERHAPS NOT WATER, SUPERMAN--
--BUT HOW ABOUT THIS...?
GREAT KRYPTON... SOME SORT OF UNDERWATER VORTEX... TRAPPING ME...!
THE WORLD SPINS MADLY ABOUT HIM AS SUPERMAN FIGHTS AGAINST THE POWERFUL FORCES WHICH HOLD HIM HELPLESS--
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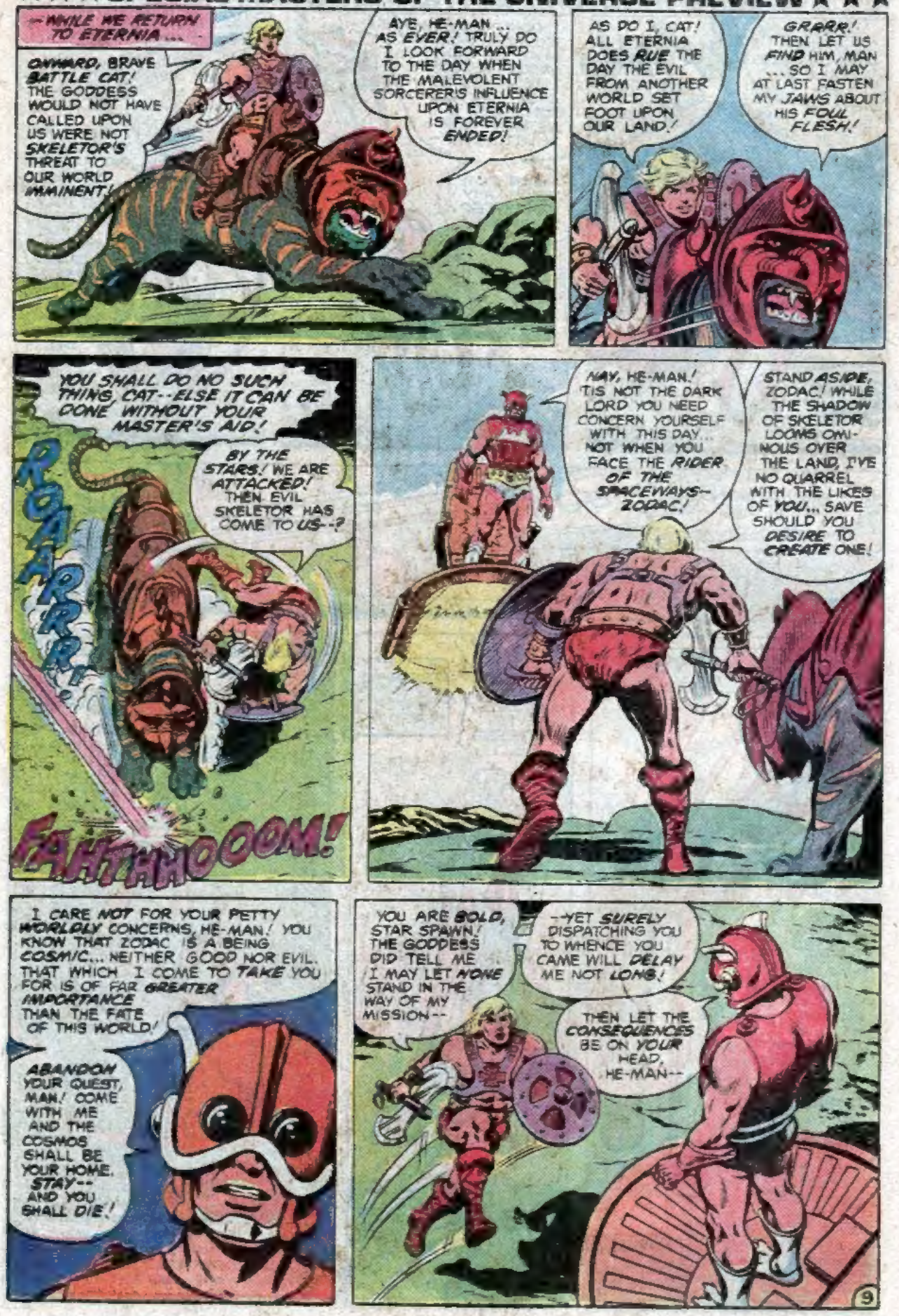
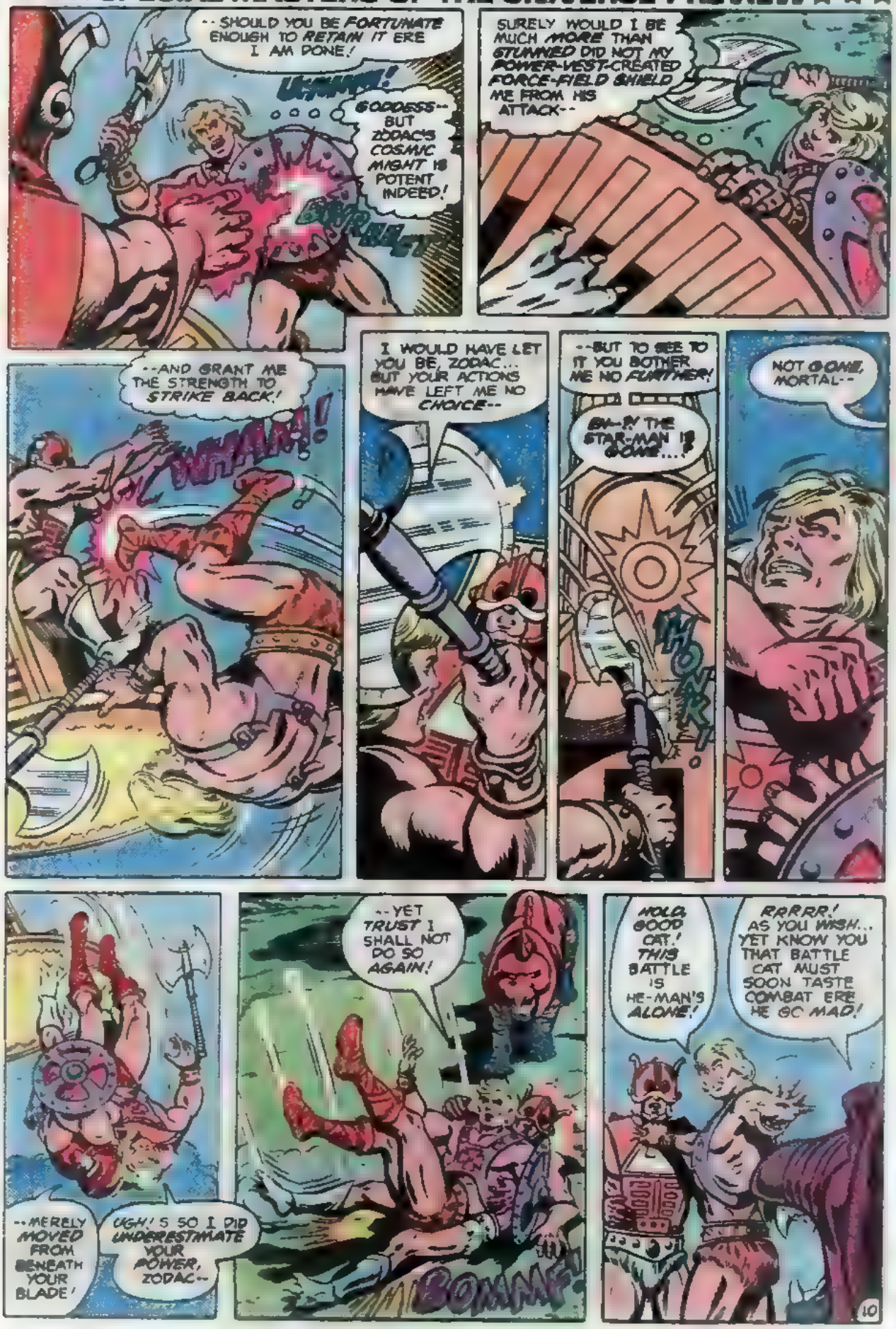
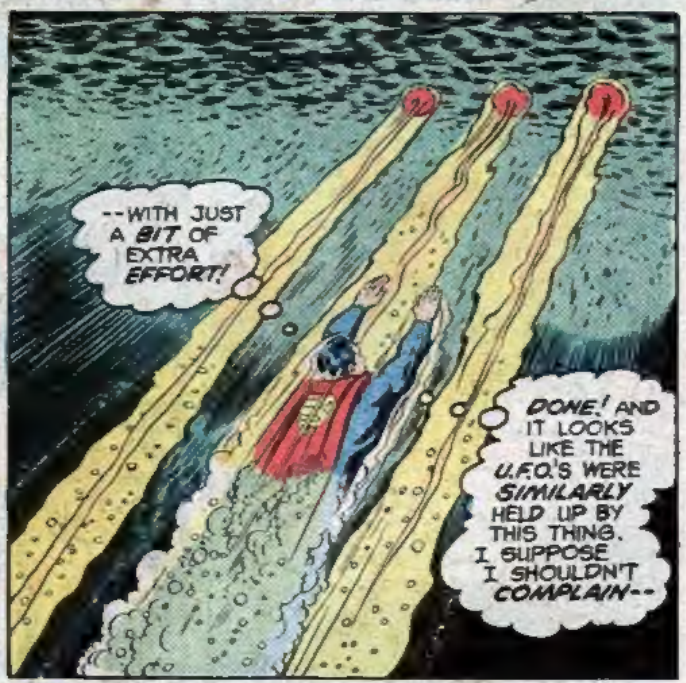
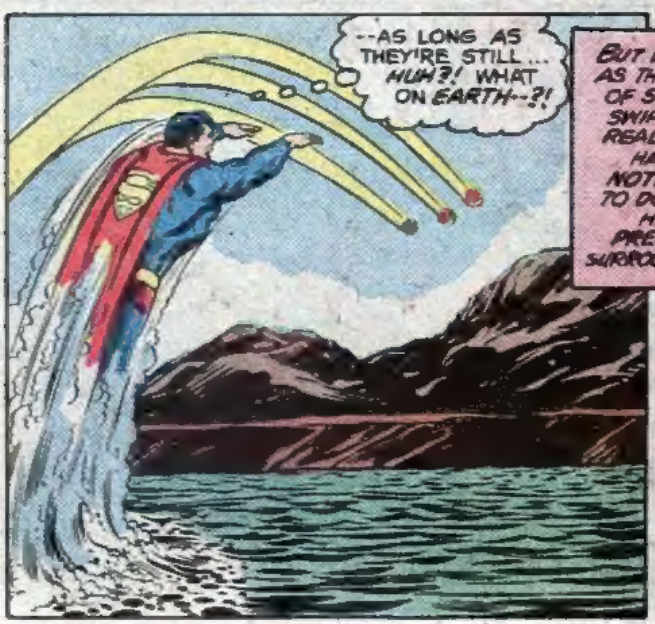

--WHILE HE RETURN TO ETERNIA...
ONWARD, BRAVE BATTLE CAT! THE GODDESS WOULD NOT HAVE CALLED UPON US WERE NOT SKELETOR'S THREAT TO OUR WORLD IMMINENT!
AYE, HE-MAN... AS EVER! TRULY DO I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THE MALEVOLENT SORCERER'S INFLUENCE UPON ETERNIA IS FOREVER ENDED!
AS DO I, CAT! ALL ETERNIA DOES RUE THE DAY THE EVIL FROM ANOTHER WORLD SET FOOT UPON OUR LAND!
GRRRR! THEN LET US FIND HIM, MAN ...SO I MAY AT LAST FASTEN MY JAWS ABOUT HIS FOUL FLESH!
YOU SHALL DO NO SUCH THING, CAT--ELSE IT CAN BE DONE WITHOUT YOUR MASTER'S AID!
BY THE STARS! WE ARE ATTACKED! THEN EVIL SKELETOR HAS COME TO US--?
ROAARRR!
FAHTHWOOOM!
NAY, HE-MAN! 'TIS NOT THE DARK LORD YOU NEED CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THIS DAY... NOT WHEN YOU FACE THE RIDER OF THE SPACEWAYS--ZODAC!
STAND ASIDE, ZODAC! WHILE THE SHADOW OF SKELETOR LOOMS OMINOUS OVER THE LAND, I'VE NO QUARREL WITH THE LIKES OF YOU... SAVE SHOULD YOU DESIRE TO CREATE ONE!
I CARE NOT FOR YOUR PETTY WORLDLY CONCERNS, HE-MAN! YOU KNOW THAT ZODAC IS A BEING COSMIC... NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL. THAT WHICH I COME TO TAKE YOU FOR IS OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN THE FATE OF THIS WORLD!
ABANDON YOUR QUEST, MAN! COME WITH ME AND THE COSMOS SHALL BE YOUR HOME. STAY--AND YOU SHALL DIE!
YOU ARE BOLD, STAR SPAWN! THE GODDESS DID TELL ME I MAY LET NONE STAND IN THE WAY OF MY MISSION--
--YET SURELY DISPATCHING YOU TO WHENCE YOU CAME WILL DELAY ME NOT LONG!
THEN LET THE CONSEQUENCES BE ON YOUR HEAD, HE-MAN--
9


--SHOULD YOU BE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO RETAIN IT ERE I AM DONE!
UHHHH!
GODDESS-- BUT ZODAC'S COSMIC MIGHT IS POTENT INDEED!
SURELY WOULD I BE MUCH MORE THAN STUNNED DID NOT MY POWER-VEST-CREATED FORCE-FIELD SHIELD ME FROM HIS ATTACK--
--AND GRANT ME THE STRENGTH TO STRIKE BACK!
I WOULD HAVE LET YOU BE, ZODAC... BUT YOUR ACTIONS HAVE LEFT ME NO CHOICE--
--BUT TO SEE TO IT YOU BOTHER ME NO FURTHER!
BU--T THE STAR-MAN IS GONE...?
NOT GONE, MORTAL--
--MERELY MOVED FROM BENEATH YOUR BLADE!
UGH! S SO I DID UNDERESTIMATE YOUR POWER, ZODAC--
--YET TRUST I SHALL NOT DO SO AGAIN!
BOKAMF!
HOLD, GOOD CAT! THIS BATTLE IS HE-MAN'S ALONE!
RRRRR! AS YOU WISH... YET KNOW YOU THAT BATTLE CAT MUST SOON TASTE COMBAT ERE HE GO MAD!

TASTE IT YOU SHALL, FELINE! FOR WITH ZODAC SO DISPATCHED, SKELETOR YET AWAITS--
--AND I CAN PROMISE YOU A VERITABLE FEAST!
DO NOT BE IN SUCH HASTE, MORTAL! THE BATTLE HERE HAS BUT BEGUN!
THE ETERNIAN HERO MAY ONLY GAPE IN AWE AT HIS FOE'S WORDS, NONE HAVE EVER WITHSTOOD SO EFFORTLESSLY HIS MIGHT AND HE-MAN KNOWS ZODAC SPEAKS TRUE!
AND THUS, DOES HE FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS WORLD..

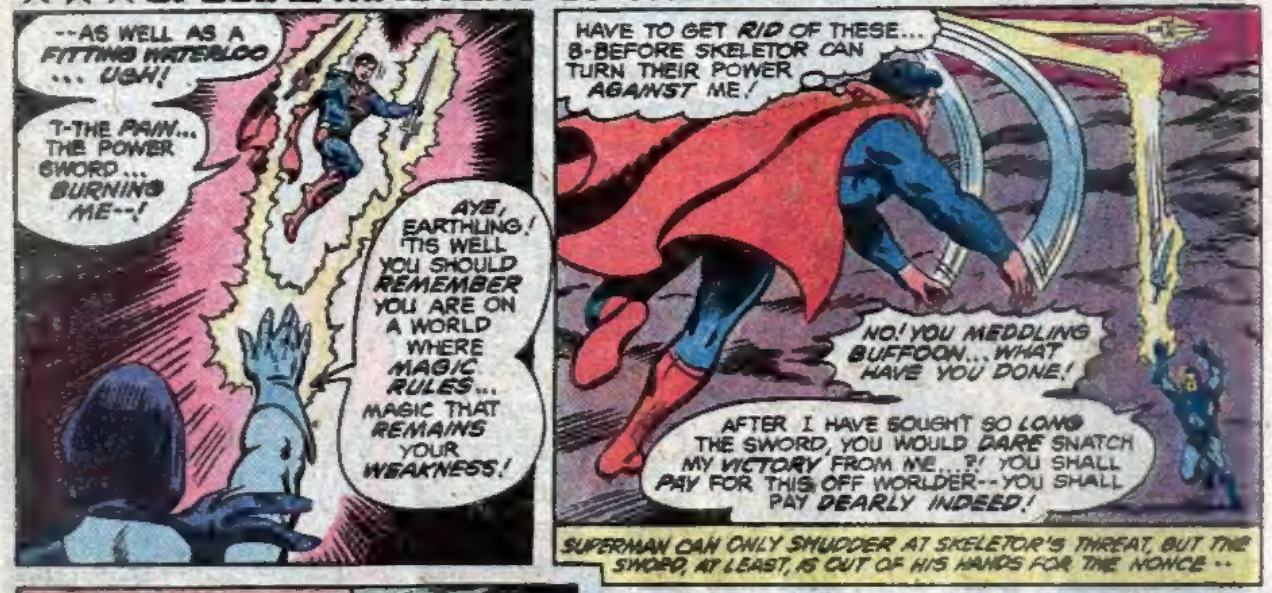
--BELIEVING THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN HELP!
HE-MAN IS WRONG... BUT NEITHER HE, NOR THE UNWITTING HELP YET KNOW THIS!
THANK THE STARS-- WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S HOLDING ME IN THIS VORTEX IS WEAKENING EVER SO SLIGHTLY! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET FREE--

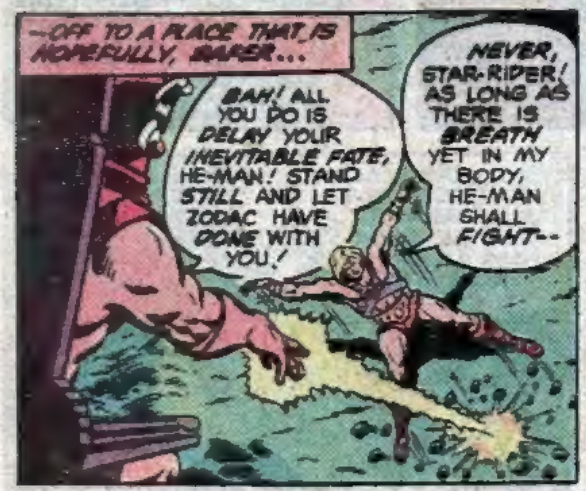

--WITH JUST A BIT OF EXTRA EFFORT!
DONE! AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE U.F.O.'S WERE SIMILARLY HELD UP BY THIS THING. I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN--

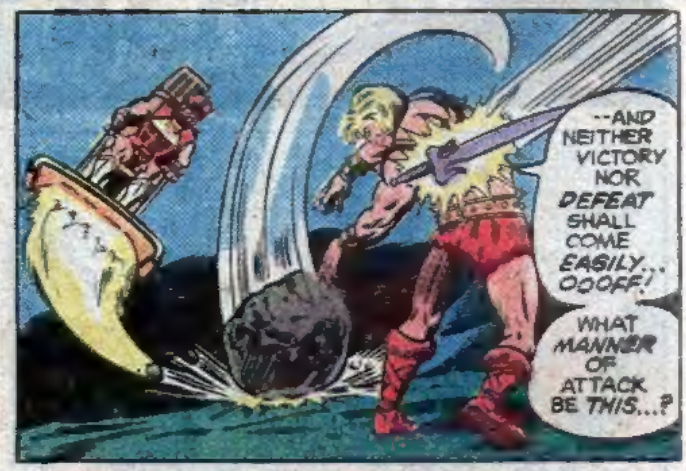

--AS LONG AS THEY'RE STILL... HUH?! WHAT ON EARTH--?!
BUT EARTH, AS THE MAN OF STEEL SWIFTLY REALIZES, HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS PRESENT SURROUNDINGS.

WAIT... I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE! I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE... ON ETERNIA! *
AND JUDGING FROM MY PAST EXPERIENCE, I CAN ONLY ASSUME THE CAUSE OF MY BEING HERE AGAIN WOULD HAVE TO BE--
*N DC PRESENTS #47 -- Dave.

"--SKELETOR!"
AT LAST--THE POWER SWORD IS MINE!
LONG HAVE I AWAITED THIS DAY WHEN THE ELUSIVE TWIN OF THE SWORD I DID HOLD WOULD BE MINE! LITTLE DID I SUSPECT THAT WHICH I SENSED AT THE OCEAN'S FLOOR WOULD BE BUT A DIMENSIONAL PORTAL TO WHERE THE SWORD TRULY LAY... UPON DISTANT EARTH!
'TWAS AS CHILD'S PLAY TO RELIEVE THE SWORD FROM WHENCE IT RESTED--
--WHILST DELAYING THAT WORLD'S MIGHTY SUPERMAN FROM INTERFERING IN MY THEFT BY CONJURING A SERPENT TO KEEP HIM OCCUPIED!
BUT NOW 'TIS DONE, AND ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE JOINING OF THE HALVES FOR THE SECRETS OF YON CASTLE GRAYSKULL TO BE REVEALED--AND BY REVEALING THEM, MAKE ETERNIA MINE AS WELL! HA HA HA!
THEN DO IT, MASTER! YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT WOULD SEE IT DONE!
YIPE!
NOT YET, FOOLISH CUR! SUCH A GRANDIOSE EVENT MUST WAIT... FOR THE STARS ARE NOT YET IN PROPER ALIGNMENT FOR THE MAGICS TO WORK!
SWAK!
BUT SOON, LACKEY... VERY SOON THE TIME SHALL BE RIPE! AND WHEN THE DARK STAR DOES STAND POISED 'TWIXT THE ETERNIAN MOONS--
--THIS WORLD WILL FEEL MY MIGHT! HA HA HA HA!
I WOULDN'T COUNT ON THAT, SKELETOR--
--I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT AT ALL!
SUPERMAN! CURSE YOU, ALIEN... I KNOW NOT HOW YOU FOUND ME, BUT YOU SHAN'T HALT MY SCHEME--NOT AGAIN!
IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO FIGURE YOU'RE STILL AFTER THE SAME THING AS WHEN WE LAST MET, SKULL-FACE, MAKING CASTLE GRAYSKULL THE FIRST PLACE I'D LOOK FOR YOU--
12


--AS WELL AS A FITTING WATERLOO ... UGH!
T-THE PAIN... THE POWER SWORD... BURNING ME--!
AYE, EARTHLING! 'TIS WELL YOU SHOULD REMEMBER YOU ARE ON A WORLD WHERE MAGIC RULES... MAGIC THAT REMAINS YOUR WEAKNESS!
HAVE TO GET RID OF THESE... B-BEFORE SKELETOR CAN TURN THEIR POWER AGAINST ME!
NO! YOU MEDDLING BUFFOON... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!
AFTER I HAVE SOUGHT SO LONG THE SWORD, YOU WOULD DARE SNATCH MY VICTORY FROM ME...?! YOU SHALL PAY FOR THIS OFF WORLDER--YOU SHALL PAY DEARLY INDEED!
SUPERMAN CAN ONLY SHUDDER AT SKELETOR'S THREAT, BUT THE SWORD, AT LEAST, IS OUT OF HIS HANDS FOR THE NONCE ..


--OFF TO A PLACE THAT IS HOMEFULLY, MAKER...
BAH! ALL YOU DO IS DELAY YOUR INEVITABLE FATE, HE-MAN! STAND STILL AND LET ZODAC HAVE DONE WITH YOU!
NEVER, STAR-RIDER! AS LONG AS THERE IS BREATH YET IN MY BODY, HE-MAN SHALL FIGHT--


--AND NEITHER VICTORY NOR DEFEAT SHALL COME EASILY... OOOFF!
WHAT MANNER OF ATTACK BE THIS...?

NAY... 'TIS ONE HALF OF THE POWER SWORD! YET... HOW--? UNLESS... AYE--THIS MUST THEN BE THE WORK OF EVIL SKELETOR! WHO ELSE WOULD BE SO BOLD!
TO ME, BATTLE CAT! THE GAUNTLET HAS BEEN THROWN DOWN AND I DO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!
BUT WHAT OF ZODAC, HE-MAN--?

HE MUST WAIT! SKELETOR MENACES ALL OF ETERNIA ... AND MY LIFE IS ALL THAT IS THREATENED HERE! TRULY, DO I HAVE A CHOICE?
HE-MAN... NAY!
THIS MUST NOT BE! FOR DID NOT THE STARS TELL OF HE-MAN'S DEATH SHOULD HE THIS DAY MEET SKELETOR..?
MAYHAPS THEY DID, BUT THE ETERNIAN CHAMPION KNOWS NOT OF THE STARS..

--AND IN TRUTH, HE WOULD NOT CARE!
BY THE GODS! MADNESS SURELY REIGNS HERE! YONDER LIES AN ALLY FROM ANOTHER WORLD ... NEAR DEATH AT THE HANDS OF MY FOE! HALT, SKELETOR!
HE-MAN! BAH, BUT I DID EXPECT YOUR COMING--

# ★★★SPECIAL MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE PREVIEW★★★

--THUS DID I PREPARE FOR YOU!
IT SEEMS THAT ALL THE FORCES OF THE COSMOS MOVE TO ACT AS ONE! A SPELL IS CAST--
--THE SWORD IS HURLED--
--AND WITHIN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, TWO BEINGS ARE STRUCK DOWN!
BY THE FATES!, NAY! I-I AM TOO LATE--
--AND THE STARS HAVE CLAIMED THEIR VICTIM!
AAAK!-- I--CURSE YOU, MEDDLERS! I-I AM WOUNDED... THE POWER OF THE SWORD--
--CONSUMES MEEEEa....
BUT BE IT MAGICAL OR PHYSICAL ENERGY, A SIMPLE LAW OF THE VERY NATURE OF THINGS HOLDS YET TRUE--
--AND THE ENERGY MUST BE MADE TO SEEK STILL ANOTHER FORM! SEEK IT IT DOES... INTO THE LIFE-FORCE OF THE MIGHTY HE MAN... AND AGAINST ALL REASON -- AGAINST EVEN THE VERY EDICTATES OF FATE...
HE LIVES! HE-MAN RISES... ALIVE!
UHHHH... AYE... I--I LIVE, ZODAC--THOUGH MY EYES... DID THEY NOT JUST GLIMPSE A WORLD OF... DEATH--?
THAT THEY DID, MY FRIEND... BUT YOU NEED NOT FEAR IT AGAIN AT MY HANDS! WE SHALL FIGHT NO MORE, FOR ZODAC WILL EXPLAIN TO YOU A MYSTERY OF THE FATES--
--BUT FOR THE NONCE, BE SATISFIED THAT YOU HAVE MET THOSE FATES... AND CHEATED THEM OF THEIR VICTORY!
ER...THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD-- BUT WILL SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT I'M DOING HERE...?
AND

WATCH FOR PART ONE OF THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE MINI-SERIES ON SALE NEXT MONTH!